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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**16 MAY 2018**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Moss Landing - 43,500 Opium Poppies Planted in Plain Sight**

(U) A field filled with thousands of opium poppies—enough to make \$45,000 worth of heroin—was discovered by Monterey County sheriff's deputies. The field contained 27,000 plants and an additional 16,500 poppies that had already been harvested, according to officials. All the plants together could make about 13 pounds of raw opium, which could then be converted to 1.5 pounds of heroin. California has one of the lowest overall opioid-related death rates in the country, though rural Northern California has seen an increase in opioid deaths in recent years.

SOURCE: 15 May 2018, [The San Luis Obispo Tribune](#)

(U) Palmdale - Boy Facing Attempted Murder Charges in Palmdale School Shooting

(U) A 14-year-old boy is facing attempted murder charges in connection with a shooting at a Palmdale high school last week that wounded one person. The District Attorney's office said the juvenile suspect has denied the charges. After the shooting, sheriff's deputies recovered an SKS rifle from an open field west of the school. The suspect has been described as a former student of the school who had transferred to a different school within the last month.

SOURCE: 15 May 2018, [ABC News](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) Mexico - Mexican Police Find 775 Pounds of Meth in Truck**

(U) Mexicali - Mexican federal police have found a load of 775 pounds—350 kilograms (kg)—of methamphetamines in a truck near the border city of Mexicali. Police said hundreds of plastic food containers of meth were packed into bales and stuffed into the truck. Police said Tuesday the driver fled when he saw police were following him. The bust comes a few days after police found 550 pounds—250 kg—of meth hidden in the bed of another truck in the same area.

SOURCE: 15 May 2018, [US News and World Report](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) Massachusetts - Man Sentenced to Prison for Trafficking Cocaine, Assaulting FBI Agent**

(U) Holyoke - Roberto Echevarria Jr. was sentenced on 14 May to 12 to 13 years in prison following his conviction on trafficking cocaine in the amount of over 200 grams, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, malicious damage to a motor vehicle, resisting arrest, assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. One charge of assault listed an FBI special agent as the victim, with the dangerous weapon listed as a motor vehicle.

SOURCE: 15 May 2018, [Mass Live News](#)

(U) Texas - Teen Allegedly Confessed to Killing Woman with Gang Member, Planned to Flee to Mexico

(U) San Antonio - Paola Perez, 19, was arrested on 14 May after an unnamed witness gave police a recording of her admitting to fatally shooting a 20-year-old woman with help from a fellow gang

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member. Days later, a witness told police Pugh had admitted to shooting De La Cruz because she had stolen money from him and Perez. He said she was "crawling for her life" after he shot her, according to his arrest affidavit. The witness also stated Perez intended to flee to Mexico but was apprehended before she could do so.

SOURCE: 15 May 2018, [My San Antonio News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Indonesia - Four Civilians, One Officer Shot Dead in Attack on Police**

(U) Sumatra - Indonesian police today shot dead four sword-wielding men who attacked a police headquarters in Sumatra, killing one officer—the latest in a spate of militant attacks across the Muslim-majority country. The attackers drove a minivan into the police headquarters, striking and killing one officer and wounding two others. ISIS, via their Amaq News Agency, claimed the attack. Police identified the attackers as belonging to the ISIS-affiliated Negara Islam Indonesia, also known as Darul Islam, a violent extremist group aiming to establish an Islamic state in Indonesia.

SOURCE: 16 May 2018, [Tri City Herald](#)

(U) Mexico - Government Acknowledges Banks were Hacked, Total Losses Unknown

(U) Mexico City - Mexico established a one-day waiting period on electronic money transfers of over \$2,500 in the wake of a cyberattack that may have taken as much as \$20 million from several Mexican banks. Security breakdowns were first detected on 27 April, but by 14 May, authorities were still unsure how much had been taken. Reporting indicates that the central bank did not have a cybersecurity division until Tuesday, when one was created by decree.

SOURCE: 15 May 2018, [ABC News](#)

(U) Mexico - On the Anniversary of One Journalist's Death Another is Killed

(U) Villahermosa - The vehicle journalist Juan Carlos Huerta was driving in Tabasco state yesterday morning was rammed by a truck, and then armed attackers exited the truck and shot Huerta to death, marking him as the fourth journalist killed this year--in Mexico, journalists face threats from criminal groups and even public officials. The Committee to Protect Journalists yesterday called on Mexican authorities to thoroughly investigate the Huerta case for any connection to his journalistic work.

SOURCE: 15 May 2018, [Los Angeles Times](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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